

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0088

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1345

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PL, US

SUBJECT: POLISH PROTEST ON TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST DIPLOMATIC
AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS AND PERSONNEL IN THE U.S.

1. VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPASOWSKI CALLED ME IN
ON SHORT NOTICE THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 3). HE SAID THAT, ON
THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AND FOLLOWING FULL
DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI, HE WANTED TO MAKE
THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION.

2. YESTERDAY, MARCH 2, HE SAID, POLISH MINISTER-COUNSELOR
WIEJACZ HAD CALLED ON DIRECTOR ANDREWS OF THE OFFICE OF
EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO DELIVER
AN ORAL PORTEST ON AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
OF FEBRUARY 27, IN WHICH TWO POLISH DIPLOMATS STATIONED IN
NEW YORK WERE ALLEGED TO BE INTELLIGENCE AGENTS ON THE BASIS
OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY "FREE POLAND". MOREOVER, HE
SAID, THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO THE MURDER OF THE AMERICAN
DIPLOMAT WELCH IN ATHENS, THUS, BY IMPLICATION, CREATING
A THREAT TO THE POLISH DIPLOMATS NAMED. HE, SPASOWSKI,
HAD PORTESTED ABOUT "FREE POLAND" TO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HARTMAN DURING HIS WARSAW VISIT LAST OCTOBER,
POINTING TO THE DAMAGING CHARACTER IT HAD FOR US-
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POLISH RELATIONS. SINCE THIS WAS ONLY THE MOST RECENT

IN A WHOLE SERIES OF EVENTS, THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO DIRECTOR ANDREWS EXPRESSING THE DEEP CONCERN AND INDIGNATION OF THE POLISH AUTHORITIES AT THIS MOST RECENT INCIDENT AND WITH REGARD TO ALL THE OTHER INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT OF POLISH OFFICIALS IN THE U.S.

3. IN MEASURED TONES, SPASOWSKI SAID THAT DIRECTOR ANDREW'S REACTION WAS "ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY". ACCORDING TO SPASOWSKI, DIRECTOR ANDREWS HAD SAID THAT ANY ORGANIZATION COULD FUNCTION IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH SUCH ARTICLES COULD BE COUNTERED WOULD BE BY GOING TO COURT TO SUE FOR LIBEL. SECONDLY, SPASOWSKI SAID, "AND EVEN MORE UNACCEPTABLE", WAS MR. ANDRES'S VIEW THAT A NEWS STORY OF THIS KIND IS ONLY A SORT OF RETALIATION, CAUSED BY THE PUBLICATION IN EUROPE OF INFORMATION ABOUT MR. WELCH. "THIS IS ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE TO US", SPASOWSKI SAID. "WE HAVE TO BE GUIDED--AND ARE GUIDED--IN OUR RELATIONS BY: (A) THE KIND AND LEVEL OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WHICH, OF COURSE, IS EXCELLENT, AND (B) THE FULL APPLICATION OF RECIPROCITY. EVEN THE MENTION OF SUCH AN ISSUE AS THAT OF MR. WELCH IS INADMISSIBLE IN SUCH A DISCUSSION".

4. BECAUSE OF THIS CONVERSATION AND IN THE LIGHT OF A NUMBER OF CASES ABOUT WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY UNHAPPY, SPASOWSKI SAID, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION WITH ME. AT THIS POINT, SPASOWSKI HANDED ME THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH IS CONTAINED IN WARSAW 1344.

5. THERE WAS ONE MORE THING, SPASOWSKI SAID. AT THE END OF MR. WIEJACZ'S MEETING WITH HIM, DIRECTOR ANDREWS HAD OFFERED SOME ADVICE. HE HAD ADVISED THE POLISH SIDE TO BE "THICK-SKINNED" AND NOT TO REACT TO THESE ACTIVITIES OF "FREE POLAND". BY REACTING, HE HAD SAID, THE POLISH SIDE ONLY BEHAVED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GRATIFY THE PEOPLE OF "FREE POLAND". THIS
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ARGUMENTATION IS ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE TO US, SPASOWSKI SAID. AS THE AIDE-MEMOIRE HE HAD GIVEN ME POINTED OUT IN CONCLUSION, IT WAS UP TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO ASSURE NORMAL WORKING CONDITIONS FOR POLISH OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE U.S.

6. SPASOWSKI THEN ASKED ME TO CONVEY WHAT HE HAD SAID TO THE DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE AIDE-

MEMOIRE.

7. HAVING READ THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, I SAID I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING IT CONTAINED. I WAS, HOWEVER, PUZZLED BY THE INCLUSION OF A REFERENCE TO THE INCIDENT INVOLVING COUNSELOR ANSZURA AND THE DELAWARE STATE TROOPER. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS MATTER HAD BEEN DEALT WITH IN WASHINGTON AND SHOULD, BY RIGHTS, NOW BE REGARDED AS CLOSED. I SAID THAT I HAD NOT EARLIER HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE CONSUL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND THE CUSTOMS AT NEWARK, BUT THIS, TOO, SEEMED TO ME NOT TO FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY AS MOST OF THE OTHER MATTERS LISTED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT I WAS CORRECT ABOUT THE ANSZURA INCIDENT. IN AND OF ITSELF, IT WAS REGARDED AS CLOSED. IT WAS CITED HERE ONLY AS YET ANOTHER INCIDENT SHOWING HOW MUCH THE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR POLISH PERSONNEL HAD DETERIORATED IN RECENT MONTHS. THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF THE INCIDENT AT NEWARK, ALTHOUGH HE HAD TO ADD THAT AN INQUIRY HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT THIS MATTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WITH ONE OF MR. ANDREWS' COLLEAGUES IN THE BUREAU OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, AND, HE BELIEVED, THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE.

8. I SAID THAT I HAD HAD NO REPORT OF THE ANDREWS-WIEJACZ MEETING. I HAD TO POINT OUT THAT THE MINISTER HAD GIVEN ME ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE STORY. I WAS SURE THAT MY COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT WERE EVERY BIT AS ANXIOUS AS I AND ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES IN WARSAW, KRAKOW, AND POZNAN TO SEE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS DONE SO THAT WORKING CONDITIONS FOR ALL OUR OFFICES WERE COMPLETELY NORMAL. I SAID I WOULD CERTAINLY TRANS-

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MIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A FULL REPORT OF OUR MEETING AND A TRANSLATION OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE.

9. COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE ANSZURA INCIDENT AND THE BOMB EXPLOSION AT THE POLISH CONSULATE IN NEW YORK, THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN AT A DISADVANTAGE, SINCE IT HAD NO REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON THE MATTER WHICH THE POLISH SIDE WISHED TO DISCUSS. I WAS ALSO IGNORANT OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT WITH THE POLISH CONSUL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AT THE PORT OF NEWARK AND OF THE "DAILY NEWS" ARTICLE.

10. I WILL SUBMIT AT A LATER DATE SOME THOUGHTS ON HOW WE MIGHT DEAL WITH THE EVIDENT CONCERNS OF THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY. IT IS ENOUGH NOW TO SAY

THAT IT IS CLEAR TO US HERE THAT, WITHOUT IN ANY WAY
ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONNECTION, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS REQUESTED GUNNERY SERGEANT BATTON'S DEPARTURE
IN INDIRECT RETALIATION FOR THE MANHANDLING OF
COUNSELOR ANSZURA (75 WARSAW 7347). I FULLY EXPECT
THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER INDIRECT AND UNACKNOWLEDGED
RETALIATION IF THE POLISH AUTHORITIES ARE NOT CONVINCED
THAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE VIEWED WITH FULL SERIOUSNESS AND THAT
WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO ALLEVIATE OR AT LEAST
PALLIATE THE CONDITIONS ABOUT WHICH THEY COMPLAIN. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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